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Letter dated 2 August 2011 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as President of the Security Council, I am forwarding to you a letter, dated 22 July 2011, from the Chair of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, based on the Working Group's conclusions adopted on 22 June 2011 (S/AC.51/2011/5) (see annex).

(*Signed*) Hardeep Singh **Puri**
President of the Security Council

11-44195 (E) 040811

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Annex

At its 30th meeting, on 2 May 2011, the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict examined the second report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in the Central African Republic (S/2011/241), covering the period from December 2008 to December 2010. At its 31st meeting, on 22 June 2011, the Working Group adopted its conclusions on children and armed conflict in the Central African Republic (S/AC.51/2011/5).

In follow-up to the recommendations of the Working Group, approved by the Security Council, and subject to and consistent with applicable international law and the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, including Council resolutions 1612 (2005), 1882 (2009) and 1998 (2011), I am entrusted, in my capacity as Chair of the Working Group, to request you, through the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA) and the United Nations country team, to strengthen the monitoring and reporting mechanism on violations and abuses against children through regular meetings of the Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting and to promote the strengthening of information networks in order to ensure the fulfilment of reporting obligations to the Council. In this context, I would like to emphasize that a strengthened monitoring and reporting mechanism is necessary to ensure adequate follow-up to the implementation of the Secretary-General's recommendation that sufficient resources and capacity be dedicated to the mechanism and the conclusions of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict in the Central African Republic, in accordance with Security Council resolutions 1612 (2005) and 1882 (2009). The Working Group would therefore like to request that you urge the Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting to strengthen its monitoring and reporting activities and to deploy resources and ensure sufficient capacity for this purpose, as necessary.

The Working Group wishes to note that the collaboration between the Government and the Mission for the Consolidation of Peace in the Central African Republic (MICOPAX) in support of the effort of the Forces armées centrafricaines to protect civilians and regain control over conflict-affected areas is an important step towards protecting children and wishes to underline the concomitant need for the international community to support the Government in its efforts to professionalize and strengthen its defence and security forces, including its oversight mechanisms. The Working Group would like to encourage further collaboration between MICOPAX, BINUCA and relevant child protection actors on the training and capacity-building of Central African law enforcement and armed forces personnel, in the context of a holistic, nationally driven approach to security sector reform.

The Working Group further notes the release of children from the ranks of the Armée populaire pour la restauration de la république de la démocratie (APRD), and the latter's attempts to conclude an action plan with the United Nations, and requests that the United Nations country team renew its efforts to develop and implement an action plan with APRD to prevent the further recruitment and use of children with a view to de-listing APRD from the annexes to the annual report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict.

The Working Group wishes to call upon United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to support the Government of the Central African Republic in the

development and implementation of long-term reintegration programmes for children formerly associated with armed forces and groups, taking into account the Paris Principles, which have been endorsed by the Government of the Central African Republic, in order to ensure that the separation of children from armed groups is maintained in the Central African Republic.

Lastly, the Working Group wishes to welcome the specific allocation of funds from the Peacebuilding Fund for child reintegration.

(*Signed*) Peter **Wittig**
Chair
Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict